

Missouri Other Agricultural Land Community WHAG Model Instructions

This WHAG is used for those agricultural lands that are not covered by the prairie/grassland or Cropland WHAG models. Such land can include but is not limited to orchards, vineyards, pecan or walnut groves, and sod farms.

Brushy Cover

This category awards points for the proportion of evaluated land that is within 660 feet of dense brushy cover. Minimum size of brushy cover is one Covey Headquarters, or 30' X 50' in size. Minimum width is always 30'.

Brushy cover must be excluded from livestock and may not have a fescue or brome ground cover underneath. "Count" only that brushy cover that is under control of the landowner or operator, guaranteeing that it will not be destroyed. It is important to verify the condition of the brushy cover before awarding points. Most fencerows, forest edges, and hedgerows do not meet the definition of quality brushy cover. It is often best to assume such habitats are not brushy in nature, so score and plan accordingly.

Wildlife Friendly Grassy Habitat

This category awards points for wildlife-friendly grassland that is available for spring nesting, in terms of both quality and quantity. The grassland can exist as field borders or blocks of habitat, a minimum of 30' wide.

No more than 25% of existing grasses in a field border can be rated poor for wildlife. New plantings will have no species rated poor and 60% of the mix must be rated good or excellent for wildlife.

Zero points are awarded if there is not a minimum amount of grassy habitat and/or that habitat is not quality in terms of grazing, haying, or mowing dates or grassland composition.

If the grassland does not fit in the 4 through 10 point categories, consider the zero point category as a "none of the above".

Quality Early Successional Habitat

This category awards points for the presence of quality early successional habitat that exists in May, June, and early July. Techniques other than those listed to obtain such habitat are possible.

Wildlife Access

Subtract 5 points from the number of awarded points, before calculating the Index, if the evaluated area (not just the three habitats listed above) excludes wildlife use by the use of fencing, netting, or other techniques.